

1 U.S. Magistrate Judge S. Kate Vaughan  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
DAVID CABRALES SOLIS and  
ROBERTO BETANCOURT,  
Defendants.

CASE NO. MJ21-549

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION

Title 21, United States Code, Section  
841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A)

BEFORE the Honorable S. Kate Vaughan, United States Magistrate Judge, U.S.  
Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

**COUNT ONE**

**(Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute)**

On or about October 6, 2021, at Auburn, Washington, within the Western District  
of Washington, DAVID CABRALES SOLIS and ROBERTO BETANCOURT did  
knowingly and intentionally possess, and did aid and abet the possession, with the intent  
to distribute, N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propenamide (fentanyl), a  
substance controlled under Title 21, United States Code, Section 812.

It is further alleged that the offense involved 400 grams or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl.

All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.

And the undersigned complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following information:

## AFFIANT BACKGROUND

1. I am an “investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States” within the meaning of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2510(7), that is, an officer of the United States who is empowered by law to conduct investigations of, and to make arrests for, offenses enumerated in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2516.

2. I am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Department of Homeland Security, and have been so employed since September 2020. In that capacity, I investigate narcotics and bulk cash smuggling. I am currently assigned to the Seattle Field Division, Seattle Office. Prior to my employment with HSI, I was a Special Agent with the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General for two and a half years. Prior to that, I served honorably for seven years in the United States Army Special Operations Command where I achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant and received numerous medals for both service and valor in combat.

3. My training and experience includes, but is not limited to, the twelve-week Criminal Investigation Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), a four-week Inspector General Investigator Training Program, and a two-week Covert Electronic Surveillance Program at the FLETC.

4. During my law enforcement career, I have become familiar with investigations of drug trafficking organizations, methods of importation and exportation, distribution, and smuggling of controlled substances, and financial and money laundering investigations. I have participated in investigations involving organizations trafficking in controlled substances, including heroin, and such investigations have

resulted in the arrests of drug traffickers and seizures of controlled substances. I have participated in the execution of drug search warrants and have personally been involved in the seizure of controlled substances. Based on my training, experience and conversations with other experienced narcotics investigators, I have gained experience in the techniques and methods used by drug traffickers to distribute controlled substances.

6       5. The facts set forth in this affidavit arise from my personal and direct  
7 participation in the investigation, my experience and training as an HSI Special Agent,  
8 my conversations with witnesses and other law enforcement personnel participating in  
9 this and related investigations, and my review of relevant documents and reports. I have  
10 not included each and every fact known to me or other investigative personnel  
11 concerning this investigation. My specialized training and experience in drug  
12 investigations, as well as the assistance and input of experienced fellow investigators,  
13 form a basis for my opinions and conclusions, which I drew from the facts set forth  
14 herein.

## INVESTIGATION AND PROBABLE CAUSE

16       6.     In late April 2021, HSI along with the Bellevue Police Department began  
17 an investigation into a narcotics dealer believed to be supplying the King County area  
18 with multiple pounds of illegal narcotics and thousands of fentanyl pills.

19       7.     Over the following months, agents worked with a confidential informant  
20 (“CI” or “SA-828-SE”)<sup>1</sup> to conduct multiple meetings with an individual (“Individual  
21 1”)<sup>2</sup> known to the CI to be involved in drug trafficking.

22 8. In mid-September 2021, on a date that is intentionally left vague to protect  
23 the investigation, SA-828-SE had a planned meeting with Individual 1 and Individual 1's

<sup>2</sup> The identity of Individual 1 is known to me but I am not including it here to protect the integrity of the ongoing investigation.

1 boss. Prior to the meeting, SA-828-SE's person and vehicle were searched for  
 2 contraband or money. The search was clear and agents then followed SA-828-SE to the  
 3 meeting location. SA-828-SE did not stop at any point after being searched and drove  
 4 directly to the meeting location. The planned meeting was conducted in a parking lot in  
 5 Auburn, Washington. At approximately 6:20 p.m., agents observed SA-828-SE arrive in  
 6 the parking lot and meet with a Hispanic male later identified as DAVID CABRALES  
 7 SOLIS. CABRALES SOLIS arrived in a 2017 Nissan Rogue with another unidentified  
 8 Hispanic male in the passenger seat.

9       9. Surveillance agents ran the plate of the Nissan Rogue through the  
 10 Washington Department of Licensing ("DOL") database. The registered owner is  
 11 DAVID CABRALES SOLIS. Agents obtained a DOL photo of CABRALES SOLIS and  
 12 distributed it to surveillance agents, who confirmed CABRALES SOLIS as the driver of  
 13 the Nissan Rogue.

14       10. Agents observed CABRALES SOLIS exit his vehicle and get into SA-828-  
 15 SE's vehicle and have a conversation. Approximately 20 minutes later, Individual 1  
 16 arrived in his own vehicle and also got into SA-828-SE's vehicle. After approximately  
 17 an hour-long conversation, agents observed CABRALES SOLIS and Individual 1 exit  
 18 SA-828-SE's vehicle. Shortly after this, CABRALES SOLIS and the unidentified  
 19 Hispanic male departed the meet location and drove to an apartment complex located at  
 20 an address in Auburn, Washington, that is the registered address for the 2017 Nissan  
 21 Rogue. Agents conducted mobile surveillance of CABRALES SOLIS and observed him  
 22 park the Nissan Rogue in a parking spot labeled "13" and enter the center of the northern  
 23 apartment building. Agents could see that CABRALES SOLIS entered a hallway that led  
 24 to only four apartments, one of which was apartment 13, the registered address for the  
 25 Nissan Rogue.

26       11. Agents observed SA-828-SE leave the meet location and followed him/her  
 27 to a pre-planned location. Once there, SA-828-SE produced a small sample of  
 28 methamphetamine and fentanyl pills from the center console of his/her vehicle that had

1 been supplied by CABRALES SOLIS. SA-828-SE's person and vehicle were then  
2 searched by agents, and they discovered no additional currency or contraband in his/her  
3 possession. SA-828-SE stated that CABRALES SOLIS identified himself as "the boss"  
4 and stated that he recently brought "200 pounds of meth and 100,000 pills" up from  
5 Mexico. CABRALES SOLIS instructed SA-828-SE to call him directly for a large deal  
6 in the coming days.

7       12. In late September, on a date that is intentionally left vague to protect the  
8 identity of the CI, SA-828-SE was contacted by CABRALES SOLIS by telephone.  
9 CABRALES SOLIS stated to the CI that he was able to provide approximately 100,000  
10 fentanyl pills for the price of \$4.50 a pill. CABRALES SOLIS stated he was placing the  
11 order with his boss in Mexico and the pills should arrive in early October. The CI also  
12 invited CABRALES SOLIS to travel with him/her while selling the pills, to which  
13 CABRALES SOLIS agreed and stated he would bring 20,000 pills of his own to sell on  
14 the trip. CABRALES SOLIS further stated that he was having trouble getting  
15 methamphetamine right now but would look for black tar heroin.

16       13. In late September 2021, on a date that is intentionally left vague to protect  
17 the identity of the CI, SA-828-SE was again contacted by CABRALES SOLIS by  
18 telephone. CABRALES SOLIS stated that the 100,000 pills would be in his possession  
19 on September 29, 2021. SA-828-SE told CABRALES SOLIS that he/she would be  
20 travelling back to Washington and that he/she would be available to conduct the deal in  
21 the first week of October.

22       14. In late September 2021, on a date that is intentionally left vague to protect  
23 the identity of the CI, I received a call from SA-828-SE who stated that he/she had  
24 another conversation with CABRALES SOLIS about the planned deal for 100,000  
25 fentanyl pills. SA-828-SE stated that CABRALES SOLIS had requested help packaging  
26 up all the pills in order to be hidden inside SA-828-SE's vehicle after the deal was  
27 complete. SA-828-SE reported that the packaging was to be done inside CABRALES  
28 SOLIS's apartment. I instructed SA-828-SE to tell CABRALES SOLIS that he/she

1 would be in the Auburn area on October 6, and to tell CABRALES SOLIS that he/she  
 2 would be available to assist with the packaging on that day.

3       15. In early October 2021, on a date that is intentionally left vague to protect  
 4 the identity of the CI, I received a call from SA-828-SE who stated that he/she just had  
 5 another phone conversation with CABRALES SOLIS about the 100,000 fentanyl pills.  
 6 SA-828-SE stated that CABRALES SOLIS called him/her to advise that he was in  
 7 possession of the pills and wanted to know if SA-828-SE was still planning on buying all  
 8 100,000 pills. CABRALES SOLIS stated that he had a buyer lined up who wanted to  
 9 purchase 20,000 pills if SA-828-SE was not planning on buying all the pills in  
 10 CABRALES SOLIS's possession. SA-828-SE advised CABRALES SOLIS that he/she  
 11 was going to be purchasing all the pills, and not to sell any to anybody else. CABRALES  
 12 SOLIS agreed, again confirmed he had all 100,000 pills, and confirmed that the deal  
 13 would go through between SA-828-SE and CABRALES SOLIS on October 6, 2021.

14       16. On October 6, 2021, at approximately 11:15 a.m., I met with SA-828-SE in  
 15 preparation for him/her meeting with CABRALES SOLIS to conduct the planned  
 16 narcotics transaction. Agents searched SA-828-SE's person and vehicle with no cash or  
 17 contraband found. Agents then followed SA-828-SE as he/she went to El Rinconsito, in  
 18 Auburn, Washington, the planned meeting location given to SA-828-SE by CABRALES  
 19 SOLIS. Agents observed SA-828-SE meet with CABRALES SOLIS and a Hispanic  
 20 male later identified as ROBERTO BETANCOURT. CABRALES SOLIS and  
 21 BETANCOURT then went to Walmart and went inside the store without SA-828-SE.  
 22 During this time, SA-828-SE called me and stated that CABRALES SOLIS and  
 23 BETANCOURT were going to Walmart to get a vacuum sealer to package up the pills.  
 24 Agents watched as CABRALES SOLIS and BETANCOURT came out of Walmart  
 25 carrying a package. CABRALES SOLIS and BETANCOURT then traveled back to El  
 26 Rinconsito and met with SA-828-SE again. BETANCOURT then got in SA-828-SE's  
 27 vehicle and instructed SA-828-SE to follow CABRALES SOLIS, who was driving a  
 28 silver Infinity. SA-828-SE followed CABRALES SOLIS to an address in Auburn,

1 Washington, where all three individuals exited their vehicles and went inside apartment  
2 13. After approximately 10 minutes I texted SA-828-SE to ask if the pills were present,  
3 to which he/she replied "yes." I then instructed him/her to leave the apartment, and to tell  
4 CABRALES SOLIS that they would go pick up the cash together. Several minutes later  
5 SA-828-SE and CABRALES SOLIS exited the apartment and got into SA-828-SE's  
6 vehicle. SA-828-SE drove a preplanned route, and agents conducted a traffic stop and  
7 placed both SA-828-SE and CABRALES SOLIS in custody.

8 17. Agents then executed a residential search warrant authorized by a King  
9 County judge on the apartment that SA-828-SE and CABRALES SOLIS came from.  
10 During the knock and announce for the warrant, BETANCOURT and a minor Hispanic  
11 male ran out the back of the apartment. Agents observed BETANCOURT throw a red  
12 duffle bag over a fence. BETANCOURT and the minor were placed in custody and the  
13 bag was secured. In the apartment agents recovered approximately one pound of  
14 suspected methamphetamine, one kilogram of suspected heroin, and several hundred blue  
15 pills stamped "m30" that are believed to be counterfeit fentanyl pills.

16 18. On October 6, 2021, agents executed a King County search warrant on the  
17 red duffle bag thrown over the fence by BETANCOURT. Agents found approximately  
18 five pounds of suspected methamphetamine and approximately 100,000 pressed,  
19 counterfeit "m30" suspected fentanyl pills. Agents did not perform field testing on these  
20 substances, nor on the substances found at the apartment, due to the exceptionally  
21 dangerous nature of fentanyl and the risks to anyone who handles it. Agents ordered rush  
22 lab testing of these substances.

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## **CONCLUSION**

2       19.    Based on the aforementioned facts, I believe that DAVID CABRALES  
3 SOLIS and ROBERTO BETANCOURT committed the offense of Possession of  
4 Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section  
5 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A).

  
RORY MCPHERSON  
Special Agent  
Homeland Security Investigations

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the contents of the foregoing affidavit on this 7th day of October, 2021. Based on the affidavit, the Court finds that there is probable cause to believe the defendants committed the offense set forth in the Complaint. 

  
S. Kate Vaughan  
HON. S. KATE VAUGHAN  
United States Magistrate Judge